

Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 SY-05 SCCT-01 OPR-02

A-01 OC-05 CCO-00 DHA-02 AID-05 OMB-01 USSS-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 CIEP-01

FRB-03 AGR-05 FEAE-00 INT-05 /127 W
----- 110798

O R 211405Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7377

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK

COMMSIXTHFLT

CTF SIX ZERO

CTF SIX ONE

CTF SIX TWO

CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO

TURKSDE/FOSIF ROTA SPAIN

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FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA

DIA WASHDC
CIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 14461

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, LE
SUBJECT: CLASHES CONTINUE AS COUVE BEGINS ROUND OF TALKS

REF: BEIRUT 14426 (20 NOV 75 1437Z)

1. SUMMARY: THOUGH SOMEWHAT LESS SEVERE THAN YESTERDAY, STRIFE CONTINUES IN EAST BEIRUT AND WAS KEEPING SECURITY FORCES PREOCCUPIED THROUGH NOON TODAY, NOV 21. COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY REMAINS LIGHT. COUVE DE MURVILLE IS SAYING LITTLE AS HE STARTS TO GATHER VIEWPOINTS OF LEBANESE POLITICAL AND RELIGIOUS LEADERS. END SUMMARY.

2. CLASHES CONTINUED YESTERDAY, NOV 20, AND THROUGH NIGHT OF NOV 21-21, BUT AT SOMEWHAT LESS INTENSE LEVEL THAN PREVIOUS DAY. THE SAME TURBULENT QUARTERS OF EAST BEIRUT WERE THE CENTER OF MOST OF THE SHOOTING. KIDNAPPINGS ALSO REMAINED A HEADACHE FOR SECURITY FORCES AND MEDIATING POLITICAL LEADERS. THE TROUBLES STILL HAVE NOT CEASED TODAY, NOV 21. AT NOON (LOCAL) AN INTERNAL SECURITY FORCE (ISF) SOURCE TOLD US SHOOTING WAS IN PROGRESS IN NABAA-SODECO AREA OF SOUTH-CENTRAL BEIRUT AND THE USUAL BATTLEFIELDS OF AIN EL-RUMANNEH VS. CHIYAH AND SIN EL-FIL VS. NABAA. CONCERNING INTERIOR MINISTER CHAMOUN'S NEW "SHOCK FORCE", THIS SOURCE COMMENTED IT WAS UNFORTUNATE "FROM THE PSYCHOLOGICAL POINT OF VIEW" THAT SO MANY HOT SPOTS HAD ERUPTED AT ONCE, FOR IT COMPLICATED THE 300-MAN UNITS TASK. HE WAS HOPEFUL, HOWEVER, THAT THIS UNIT PLUS OTHER ISF-GOVT PACIFICATION EFFORTS WOULD BEAR FRUIT BEFORE THE DAY IS OVER. (COMMENT: WE UNDERSTAND THE "SHOCK FORCE" IS DESIGNED FOR USE SOLELY INSIDE BEIRUT CITY LIMITS, WHICH WOULD EXCLUDE ITS DEPLOYMENT IN MOST OF THE CURRENT HOT SPOTS EXCEPT NABAA-SODECO.)

3. RENEWED CLASHES OF UNDETERMINED SERIOUSNESS ARE ALSO REPORTED FROM THE TRIPOLI-ZGHORTA AREA. APPARENTLY THESE
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HAVE NOT YET BECOME A SOURCE OF MAJOR CONCERN FOR THE ISF HEADQUARTERS IN BEIRUT, WHICH HAS ENOUGH ON ITS HANDS IN THE CAPITAL.

4. ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY CONTINUES TO BE LIGHT. A FEW BANKS OPENED BUT ONLY FOR LIMITED TRANSACTIONS. FOOD STUFFS REMAIN IN GOOD SUPPLY, ALTHOUGH THERE ARE OCCASIONAL SHORTAGES CAUSED BY DISTRIBUTION PROBLEMS. THE PETROLEUM

MINISTRY HAS ARRANGED "A GENTLEMAN'S AGREEMENT" WITH THE "PEOPLE WHO DIRECTLY CONTROL IPC REFINERY AT TRIPOLI TO SUPPLY FUEL OIL TO THERMO ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT A ZOUK, WHICH PROVIDES ELECTRICITY FOR AREA NORTH OF BEIRUT INCLUDING TRIPOLI. AS TANK TRUCK DRIVERS STILL NOT REACHING BEIRUT FROM IPC REFINERY, GOVT IS ATTEMPTING TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM OF LIMITED STORAGE FOR BOTH HEATING OIL AND GASOLINE AT DORA PORT BY RAPID DELIVERIES TO CONSUMERS TO CREATE NECESSARY OUTAGE FOR NEXT TANKER LOAD. HOWEVER, DELAYS IN OIL TANKER SHIP ARRIVALS FROM TRIPOLI AND INTERRUPTION OF LOCAL TANKER TRUCK DELIVERIES TO CONSUMERS THREATEN SHORAGES.

5. COUVE DE MURVILLE'S MISSION IS CONTINUING WITH RELATIVELY LITTLE COMMENT FROM THE FRENCH ENVOY ON HIS IMPRESSIONS, AS EXPECTED. THE BEIRUT PRESS TODAY CITES HIM AS TELLING LEBANESE LEADERS THAT, IN HIS VIEW, BOTH THE US AND SOVIET UNION WISH TO PRESERVE LEBANESE INTEGRITY. HE ALSO REPORTEDLY TOLD THEM THAT LEBANON SHOULD SEARCH FOR A SOLUTION TO ITS PROBLEM ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM WOULD REMAIN FOR SOME TIME, RATHER THAN WAIT FOR THE LEBANESE CRISIS TO BE SOLVED ONCE THE PALESTINIAN ISSUE IS SETTLED. COUVE IS SLATED TO CONFER AND LUNCH WITH MARONITE PATRIARCH KHREISH TODAY, PROVIDED SECURITY CONDITIONS IN EAST BEIRUT PERMIT HIM TO GO TO THE PATRIARCH'S RESIDENCE AT BKERKE. (WE UNDERSTAND INSECURITY PREVENTED COUVE FROM REACHING THAT DESTINATION EARLY THIS MORNING.) COUVE ALSO WILL MEET WITH KAMAL JUMBLATT AND OTHER LEFTIST REPS THIS AFTERNOON.

6. TOMORROW, NOV 22, IS LEBANESE INDEPENDENCE DAY. BECAUSE OF THE CIVIL STRIFE, CEREMONIES WILL BE SHARPLY CURTAILED THIS YEAR. PRES FRANGIE IS SLATED TO BROADCAST A SPEECH TONIGHT. TOMORROW HE RECEIVES PARLIAMENTARY LEADERS AND THE PAPAL NUNCION, THE LATTER REPRESENTING THE ENTIRE

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DIPLOMATIC CORPS AS ITS DEAN.
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